IN THE CLAIMS:

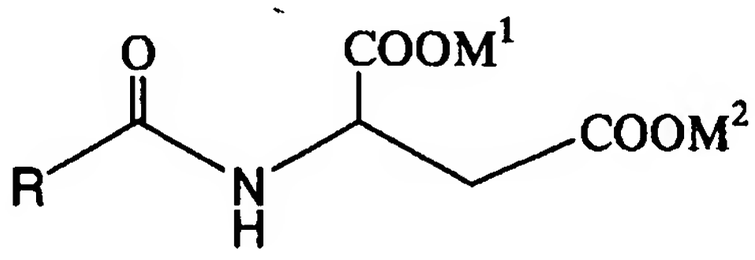
The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1 and 4-5 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A cleansing composition, comprising:

(A) N-acyl-aspartic acid or a salt thereof represented by formula (1):

[Formula 1]

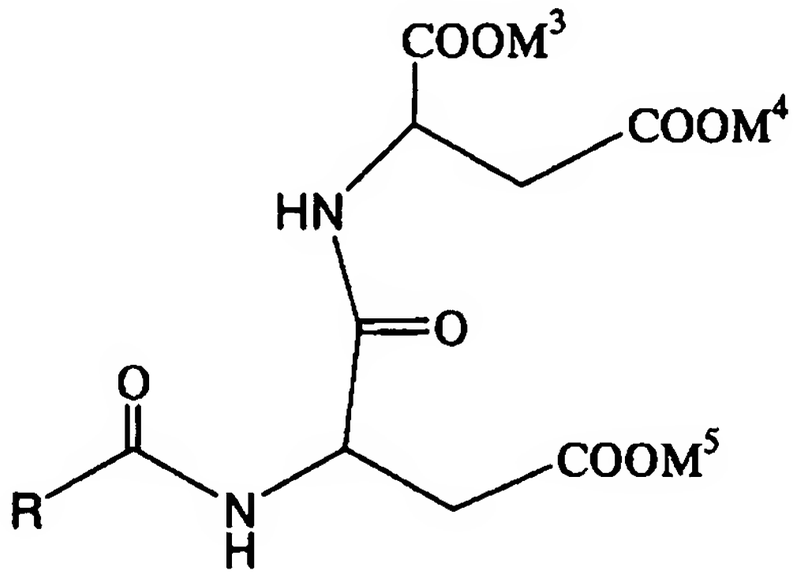


(1)

wherein R is an alkyl group having from 7 to 23 carbon atoms, and M^1 and M^2 are each, independently, a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal, an alkaline earth metal, ammonium, alkylammonium, alkanolammonium or a protonated basic amino acid;

(B) a first N-acyl-diaspartic acid or a salt thereof, represented by formula (2):

[Formula 2]

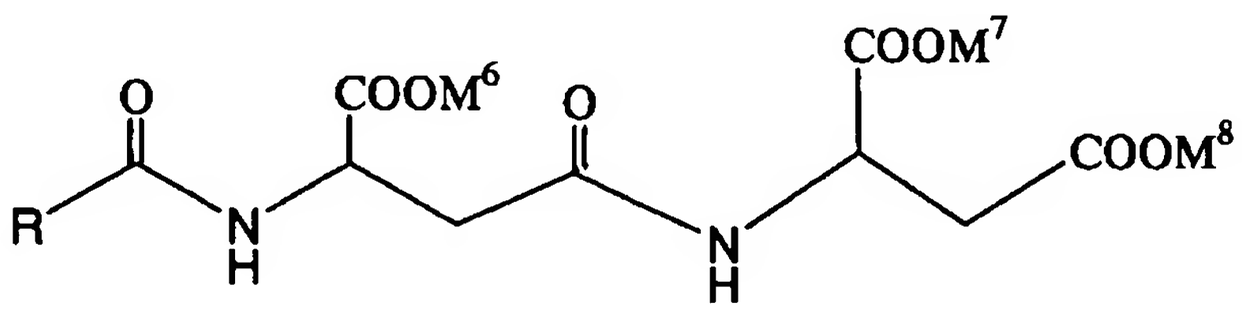


(2)

wherein R is the same alkyl group specified in formula (1), and M^3, M^4 and M^5 are each, independently, a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal, an alkaline earth metal, ammonium, alkylammonium, alkanolammonium or a protonated basic amino acid;

~~and~~a second N-acyl diaspartic acid or salt thereof, represented by formula (3):

[Formula 3]



(3)

wherein R is the same as in formula (2), and M^6, M^7 and M^8 are each, independently, a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal, an alkaline earth metal, ammonium, alkylammonium, alkanolammonium or a protonated basic amino acid,

and the weight ratio of the first N-acyl-diaspartic acid or a salt thereof represented by formula (2) to the second N-acyl-diaspartic acid or a salt thereof represented by formula (3) is 1:3 to 3:1; and

(C) a higher fatty acid or a salt thereof represented by formula (4):

[Formula 4]

(4)

wherein R is the same as in formula (2), and M^9 is a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal, an alkaline earth metal, ammonium, alkylammonium, alkanolammonium or a protonated basic amino acid~~.~~

wherein in a single composition, R is defined the same in formulae (1) through (4) such that R has the same number of carbon atoms in components (A), (B) and (C).

2-3. (CANCELED)

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The cleansing composition according to claim 1~~3~~, wherein the amount of component~~s~~ (B) is 0.1 to 15% by mass based on the total amount of

components (A) and (B), and the amount of component (C) is 0.1 to 15% by mass based on the total amount of components (A) and (C).

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The cleansing composition according to claim 4, wherein the amount of components (B) is 0.1 to 8% by mass based on the total amount of components (A) and (B), and the amount of component (C) is 0.1 to 10% by mass based on the total amount of components (A) and (C).

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The cleansing composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition has a pH of from 5.0 to 7.0.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The cleansing composition according to claim 1, wherein R in component (A) has from 9 to 17 carbon atoms.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The cleansing composition according to claim 1, wherein M^1 to M^9 in formulas (1) to (4) are one or more selected from a hydrogen atom, sodium, lithium, potassium, ammonium and triethanolammonium.

9. (ORIGINAL) The cleansing composition according to claim 8, wherein M^1 to M^9 in formulas (1) to (4) are only one selected from sodium, lithium, potassium, ammonium and triethanolammonium, other than a hydrogen atom.

10. (ORIGINAL) The cleansing composition according to claim 9, wherein M^1 to M^9 in formulas (1) to (4) are selected only from a hydrogen atom and sodium.

11. (WITHDRAWN) A cleansing composition comprising component (A) represented by formula (1), wherein after the composition is stored at 50°C for 30 days, the reduction in foaming power thereof is 20% or less.

12. (WITHDRAWN) The cleansing composition according to claim 11, wherein after the composition is stored at 50°C for 30 days, the increase in the content of a free fatty acid based on component (A) is 15% by mass or less.

13-19. (CANCELED)

20. (WITHDRAWN) A method for producing a cleansing composition of claim 1 in which N-acyl-aspartic acid or a salt thereof is used as component (A), wherein the N-acyl-aspartic acid or a salt thereof is prepared by the steps comprising:

adjusting the N-acyl-aspartic acid or a salt thereof to a pH of 6.0 or higher; and then

adjusting the resulting mixture to a final pH of from 4.5 to 6.0,

wherein the difference between the highest pH and the final pH is 0.5 or more.

21. (WITHDRAWN) A cleansing composition characterized in that the composition comprises component (A) represented by formula (1) which is neutralized to a pH in the range of from 6.6 to 10; after the composition is stored at 50°C for 30 days, the reduction in foaming power thereof in a weakly acidic region is 10% or less; and the reduction in the measured value of visible-light transmittance at a wavelength of 430 nm is 10% or less.

22-25. (CANCELED)

26. (WITHDRAWN) The cleansing composition according to claim 21, wherein the content of the component (A) in which the alkyl group in formula (1) has 11 carbon atoms is 50% by mol or more of the total component (A).

27. (WITHDRAWN) The cleansing composition according to claim 21, wherein M^1 and M^2 in formula (1) are an alkali metal salt in addition to a hydrogen atom.

28. (WITHDRAWN) The cleansing composition according to claim 27, wherein M^1 and M^2 in formula (1) are each sodium in addition to a hydrogen atom.

29. (WITHDRAWN) The cleansing composition according to claim 1, comprising from 0.005 to 0.3 part by mass of phosphorus.

30. (WITHDRAWN) The cleansing composition according to claim 1, comprising from 0.005 to 0.08 part by mass of organic phosphorus.

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